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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/815,251

03/30/2004

Satyajit Nath

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02/07/2011

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.
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EXAMINER

KIM, JUNG W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2432

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/07/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<p align="center">Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief</p>	<p>Application No. 10/815,251</p>	<p>Applicant(s) NATH, SATYAJIT</p>	
	<p>Examiner JUNG KIM</p>	<p>Art Unit 2432</p>	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 26 January 2011 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☒ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 1-12 and 29-45.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 13-28.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information *Disclosure Statement*(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

/Jung Kim/
Primary Examiner, AU 2432

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's arguments are directed to distinctions defined in the proposed claim amendment, which are new issues that would require further search and consideration. The proposed amendments are not entered.

With respect to applicant's argument that Merriam does not teach the proposed new limitation "cryptographically associating, by encrypting at least a portion of the electronic document using a cryptographic key, the document retention policy with the electronic document" (Remarks, pg. 19-20), this argument is not persuasive because Merriam discloses encrypting the information set using the encryption keys, and moreover, Merriam discloses that the document retention policy (i.e. policies for deleting stored, encrypted information sets) is implemented by retaining/deleting the encryption/decryption keys, which suggests the limitation "cryptographically associating ... the document retention policy with the electronic document."

With respect to applicant's arguments that the prior art does not disclose the "that the cryptographic key is protected by a document access policy" (Remarks, pgs. 21-22) this argument is not persuasive. Although the proposed amendment further distinguishes that the access policy comprise access rules to provide restrictive access to the cryptographic key and the electronic document, this argument is not persuasive because the claim scope is still defined broadly such that the access rules restricts access to keys and documents as a group. This feature is suggested by Merriam in view of Pensak. Pensak et al. clearly disclose policies that restrict access to encrypted documents. These policies further restrict access to the corresponding decryption keys for their counterpart encrypted documents. I.e. only if a user is authorized to access an encrypted document, is the user authorized to access the corresponding decryption key for the encrypted document.

With respect to applicant's traversal of the Official notice (Remarks, pg. 23-24), applicant does not provide any rationale why the supported notice is inadequate. Mere conclusionary remarks are insufficient to overcome the rejection..